

REMARKS

Claims 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 26, 30, 33 and 34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 11, 13 and 15 are amended, and claims 5, 7, 22-25, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are canceled, without prejudice to, or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Support for the amendments to claims 11, 13 and 15 can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0018] and [0042]. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Final Rejection objects to claims 5, 7, 27 and 28 for improper dependency. As discussed above, claims 5, 7, 27 and 28 are canceled and thus the objection of claims 5, 7, 27 and 28 is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Final Rejection rejects claims 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 22-28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,296,189 to Kang et al. (hereinafter "Kang"). As discussed above, claims 5, 7, 22-25, 27 and 28 are canceled, and thus the rejection of claims 5, 7, 22-25, 27 and 28 is moot. The rejection of claims 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 26 and 30 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kang at least fails to disclose wetting undried metal particles having been water washed, wherein the undried metal particles are wetted by a liquid solvent that is compatible with an organic component included in said conductive composition and is incompatible with water, as recited in independent claims 11, 13 and 15.

The Final Rejection, citing Kang's Abstract, alleges that Kang discloses alumina particles that correspond to the claimed metal particles. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. For example, Kang fails to disclose or suggest that the alumina particles of Kang (the alleged metal particles) are wetted with a liquid that is a solvent being compatible with an organic component included in said conductive composition and incompatible with water, after the alumina particles (the alleged metal particles) have been water washed, as claimed in independent claims 11, 13 and 15.

The Final Rejection also alleges that the treatment disclosed by Kang of the alumina particles (the alleged metal particles) would be substantially the same as the claimed wetting of undried metal particles, as recited in independent claims 11, 13 and 15, and thus the claimed features of independent claims 11, 13 and 15 would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully disagree with these assertions.

In particular, Applicants submit that the features of independent claims 11, 13 and 15, are clearly not taught or suggested by Kang, for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed features of independent claims 11, 15, 33 and 34 are clearly not taught or suggested by Serafin, and that the claimed features of independent claims 11, 13 and 15 are entirely different than the treatment of the alumina particles disclosed by Kang. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the treatment of the alumina particles of Kang (the alleged metal particles) to have all of the features of independent claims 11, 13 and 15.

Therefore, independent claims 11, 13 and 15 are patentable over Kang. Additionally, claims 3, 17, 26 and 30 are patentable over Kang, at least in view of the patentability of independent claims 11 and 15, from which these claims variously depend, as well as for the additional features these claims recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Final Rejection rejects claims 3, 11, 15, 26 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,852,076 to Serafin et al. (hereinafter "Serafin"). As discussed above, claims 31 and 32 are canceled and thus the rejection of claims 31 and 32 is moot. The rejection of claims 3, 11, 15, 26, 33 and 34 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Serafin at least fails to disclose wetting undried metal particles having been water washed, wherein the undried metal particles are wetted by a liquid solvent that is compatible with an organic component included in said conductive composition and is incompatible with water, as recited in independent claims 11 and 15, and as similarly recited in independent claims 33 and 34.

The Final Rejection acknowledges that Serafin at least fails to disclose wetting undried metal particles having been water washed. However, the Final Rejection alleges that Serafin discloses particles that correspond to the claimed metal particles. Furthermore, the Final Rejection alleges that the treatment of the alleged particles disclosed by Serafin substantially corresponds to the claimed wetting of undried metal particles, as recited in independent claims 11 and 15, and as similarly recited in independent claims 33 and 34, and thus the claimed features of independent claims 11, 15, 33 and 34 would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully disagree with these assertions.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Serafin fails to explicitly teach or suggest wetting undried metal particles having been water washed, wherein the metal particles are wetted by a liquid solvent that is compatible with an organic component included in said conductive composition and is incompatible with water. That is, Serafin fails to disclose that the alleged particles of Serafin (the alleged metal particles) are wetted with a liquid that is a solvent being compatible with an organic component included in said conductive composition and incompatible with water, after the alleged particles have been water washed. Moreover, the Final Rejection merely alleges that the treatment of the alleged

particles disclosed by Serafin would substantially be the same as the claimed features of independent claims 11, 15, 33 and 34. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed features of independent claims 11, 15, 33 and 34 are clearly not taught or suggested by Serafin, and that the claimed features of independent claims 11, 15, 33 and 34 are entirely different than the treatment of the alleged particles disclosed by Serafin. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the treatment of the alleged particles of Serafin (the alleged metal particles) to have all of the features of independent claims 11, 15, 33 and 34.

Therefore, independent claims 11, 15, 33 and 34 are patentable over Serafin. Additionally, claims 3 and 26 are patentable over Serafin, at least in view of the patentability of independent claims 11 and 15, from which these claims variously depend, as well as for the additional features these claims recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 7, 13, 23, 24 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Serafin in view of Kang. As discussed above, claims 5, 7, 23, 24, 27 and 28 are canceled, and thus the rejection of these claims is moot. Additionally, claim 29 was previously canceled, and thus the rejection of claim 29 is moot. The rejection of claim 13 is respectfully traversed.

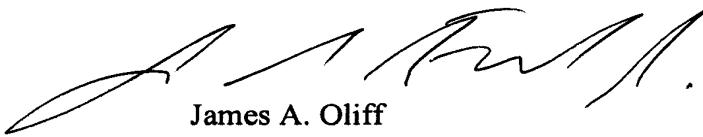
Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Kang and the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Serafin, neither Serafin nor Kang, either alone, or in a permissible combination, disclose wetting undried metal particles having been water washed, wherein the undried metal particles are wetted by a liquid solvent that is compatible with an organic component included in said conductive composition and is incompatible with water, as recited in independent claim 13.

Therefore, independent claim 13 is patentable over the combination of Serafin and Kang. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Lenwood Faulcon, Jr.
Registration No. 61,310

JAO:LXF/cxo

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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